(ख) इन वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि के कारण हैं :—मांग व आपूर्ति में अन्तर होना, गत कई वर्षों के दौरान दालों का उत्पादन स्थिर रहना, गत वर्ष के उत्पादन की तुलना में वर्ष 1992-93 के दौरान चीनी के उत्पादन में कमी होना।

सरकार, आवश्यक वस्तुओं के मूल्यों में वृद्धि को रोकने तथा वर्ष भर उन्हें उपलब्ध कराने के लिए समय-समय पर सभी संभव कदम उठाती रही है। मूल्यों को नियंत्रित करने के लिए किए जाने वाले उपायों की समीक्षा मूल्यों संबंधी मंत्रि-मंडल समिति, सचिवों का विशेष कार्यवाही समिति तथा नागरिक पूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले व सार्व जनिक वितरण मंत्रालय द्वारा नियमित रूप से की जाती है। आवश्यक वस्तुओं की तेजी से ढुलाई में आने वाली आधार-ढांचे संबंधी बाधाओं को जल्द दूर किया जाता है और भारी कमी का सामना कर रहे क्षेत्रों में तत्काल आधार पर इन वस्तुओं की आपूर्ती की व्यवस्था की जाती है।

ESCALATION OF SUGAR PRICE

2292. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item which appeared in the Economic Times dated the 1st December, 1993 captioned "Sugar prices rise to Rs. 1,200 per quintal" ;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction towards high cost of sugar to consumers ;

(c) whether Government propose to enhance sugar supplies through the public distribution system ;

(d) whether Government propose to import to stem the high prices ; and

(e) what are the measure proposed by Government to reduce the price of sugar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Sugar production which was 134.11 lakh tonnes in 1991-92 came down to 106.09 lakh tonnes in 1992-93 season. Production during 1993-94 is estimated at around 107 lakh tonnes. Due to limited availability in the country, it is not possible to enhance sugar supplies through the public distribution system.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The following measures are being taken by the Government to keep the price of sugar at reasonable levels :—

(i) Adequate quantities of free sale sugar are being released each month.

(ii) The State Governments have been requested to strictly enforce various regulatory orders pertaining to sugar dealers in respect of stock having limits turn over of stocks by traders within the prescribed time limit, sale of sugar by one wholesaler to another wholesaler etc. They have also been requesed to carry out periodic surprise raids to check unlawful trade practices.

(iii) Apart from ensuring sale/despatch of monthly free sale quota within the validity period by the end of the monht, sugar mills have also been directed to ensure sale/despatch of 47.5% of their quota during each fortnight.

INTERNATIONAL PRICE OF EDIBLE OILS

2293. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices prevailing in international markets for edible oils is much lower than our exportable prices ;